

Application No.: 09/417,985**Docket No.: JCLAS185****REMARKS****Present Status of the Application**

Claims 1-14 are pending. The Office Action rejected presently pending claims 1, 6-8, 13 and 14. Specifically, the Office Action rejected claims 1, 6-8, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimoto et al., US Patent Application Number US2002/0012453 A1. Claims 2-5 and 9-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected independent claim. Claims 1-14 remain pending in the present application and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Concerning examiner's remarks on the previous response to the rejection of claim 1 and the rejection of claim 8

The Examiner opined that Hashimoto et al. discloses activating the scanner driver to perform an image-enhancement process on the primitive scanned image to thereby obtain a quality-enhanced image, as stated in claims 1 and 8 of the present invention. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The following is a passage from Hashimoto et al. paragraph 323, lines 14-18.

Application No.: 09/417,985

Docket No.: JCLA5185

"The scanner control program 85 interprets the scanner command C3 and supplies a scanner condition set command C4 to the device driver 86 to drive the designated scanner. The scanner condition set command is for setting conditions of the scanner such as the resolution."

Applicants would like to point out specifically that the scanner condition set command is for setting conditions of the scanner in Hashimoto et al., not the image-enhancement process of the present invention. The setting-selection of the scan process is conducted prior to the image scan, whereas the image-enhancement process is applied after the image is obtained. Therefore, the above passage from Hashimoto et al. does not disclose the "activating the scanner driver to perform an image-enhancement process on the primitive scanned image to thereby obtain a quality-image" clause of claims 1 and 8.

Hashimoto et al. discloses an image-processing step performed on the image data stored in the band memory, in paragraph 323, lines 30-32. This image process, however, is performed on the final image rather than to enhance the image to create a final image. This is supported by the last sentence of paragraph 323 of Hashimoto et al., "For example, the scanner control program 85 compresses the image data by using a JPEG compression board and plots the compressed data into a buffer area H." Clearly, Hashimoto et al. discloses a final image

Application No.: 09/417,985

Docket No.: JCLA5185

processing which changes the format of the image rather than to change the image itself. Hence, Applicants assert that Hashimoto et al. does not disclose the image-enhancement feature of the present invention. Reconsideration of the rejections to claims 1 and 8 is therefore respectfully requested.

Concerning the rejection to claims 6, 7, 13, and 14

As Applicants assert that independent claims 1 and 8 are indeed patentable, it is believed that as further limitations upon the original base claim, claims 6, 7, 13, and 14 are also in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Response to the Objection to Claims 2-5 and 9-12

Applicants request reconsideration of the objection to claims 2-5 and 9-12, as claims 1 and 8 contain a novel feature not disclosed in Hashimoto et al.

Application No.: 09/417,985

Docket No.: JCLAS185

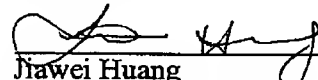
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and re-examination of pending claims 1-14. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss the application.

Date: 3/26/2003

4 Venture, Suite 250
Irvine, CA 92618
Tel.: (949) 660-0761
Fax: (949)-660-0809

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. PATENTS


Jiawei Huang
Registration No. 43,330